NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

Organizing a workers-first agenda to address the tariff crisis

WORKERS' ACTION CENTRE

JUSTICE FOR WORKERS
DECENT WORK FOR ALL

for more information:

justice4workers.org/tariffs

Tariffs will create widespread recession.

Governments at all levels must take action to provide income supports that are adequate, widely accessible, and structured to avoid costly and punitive clawback measures against workers.

The federal government must act immediately to ensure all workers have:

- **Weekly income support of no less than $600.00 per week,** either through Employment Insurance (EI) or direct grants for those who can't access regular benefits. This measure must include weekly income support for misclassified workers and migrant workers.
  - Workers need emergency access to EI after 120 hours
  - There should be no waiting period and workers should not have to use-up separation payments (such as vacation pay or severance pay).
- **A freeze on increases in the price of food.**
- **A freeze on interest rate increases, so workers and small businesses are not struggling further from higher interest payments to lenders.**

Federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments must:

- Legislate a moratorium on rent increases, including commercial rent to protect small businesses.
- Implement moratoriums on evictions, including evictions of small businesses.
- Support employers impacted by tariffs, but ensure such funds are not used to increase profit rates or issue dividends to shareholders.
  - Ensure any public funds misused by corporations are repaid.
  - Publicly disclose all corporations that have misused public funds.
- End misclassification of employees as independent contractors. Such action will also restore lost income for EI, Canada & Quebec Pensions Plans, and workers' compensation funds.
- Increase public funding for publicly-provided healthcare, education, childcare, and other public services to address sustained labour shortages in vital sectors.
- Increase public funding for infrastructure, such as public transit, and build deeply affordable, high-quality, social housing. These investments will keep costs down for ordinary people while also mitigating job losses.
- Ensure profitable corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes to fund public infrastructure and public services, since they benefit from these investments.

The federal government must fix Employment Insurance permanently as follows:

Expand Access:

- Set a universal 360-hour (12-week) qualifying rule for Regular and Special Benefits.
- End harsh disqualification rules that leave many vulnerable workers without EI access.
- Extend EI access to all migrant workers.
- Ensure misclassified, self-employed workers have access to EI.
- End the practice where workers must use-up separation payments (vacation and severance) before accessing EI benefits.

Improve weekly benefit rates & duration

- Raise the benefit rate to 75% and raise the cap on insurable earnings.
- A minimum benefit rate of at least $600 per week for Regular and Special benefits.
- Extend EI access to all migrant workers.
- Extend the benefit period for combined Regular and Special EI (parental, etc).

Increase and earmark contributions to EI funds

- Restore annual federal government contributions to EI.
- Set EI premium rates at a level that will balance the fund over the length of an economic cycle, avoiding counter-cyclical pressures during economic crises.
- Raise the cap on insurable earnings to increase EI revenue and fund higher benefit rates.
- Pass legislation to ensure EI funds are only used to fund EI benefits, and not used to offset cuts in corporate taxes, income tax cuts, or otherwise allocated to general revenues.

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